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CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FREE TAX HELP AVAILABLE THROUGH CITY'S BEAVERTON CARES PROGRAM

- Tax credit help for low and middle income families -

BEAVERTON, Ore. – The city's Beaverton Cares program is now bringing free tax help to area residents and encouraging eligible low- and middle-income families to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The program runs through April 15 at the Beaverton Resource Center (12500 SW Allen Boulevard).

"Helping low-income families complete their tax returns properly ensures that they'll have more funds to get their basic needs met," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "The EITC helps vulnerable families and stimulates our regional economy."

Eligible low-income working families may be entitled to up to \$5,751 in tax refunds, but according to the Internal Revenue Service only about a quarter of those eligible for the federal EITC file for it. The IRS reports that when those eligible do not file, the result is the loss of millions of dollars for low-income Oregonians and for thousands of eligible low-income families across the nation.

Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (CASH), in partnership with AARP Tax-Aide, provides free tax preparation and filing year-round to thousands of low- and middle-income families and individuals throughout the Portland Metro area.

Last year, volunteers filed a record 1,887 tax returns during the 2012 tax season, which brought \$2,458,541 in tax refunds into Beaverton's economy. Participants received on average a \$1,302 tax refund, including 375 participants who received the EITC, a 30 percent increase from the prior year. Assistance was offered in six languages and volunteers worked nearly 3,700 hours.

The supersite at the Beaverton Resource Center will allow a greater number of Beaverton residents access to this important program. The supersite was made possible through funding by the city of Beaverton and a \$10,000 donation from KeyBank.

Beaverton Resource Center (walk-in only)

12500 SW Allen Boulevard

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Spanish translation is available weekdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and all day Saturdays.

To ensure your taxes can be prepared, please bring the following applicable documents: photo identification, social security cards or ITIN letters/cards for yourself and every person that will be claimed, W-2 or 1099-MISC from all employers, 1099-G from unemployment compensation, 1099-R from pension, IRA or 401(k), 1099-SSA from social security, 1099-INT from your bank, W2-G for any gambling winnings, and bank account and routing number for direct deposit. Last year's tax returns are helpful, but not required.

For additional information, please call 211 for a listing of other sites and hours or visit www.CASHOregon.org.

The Beaverton Cares program seeks to raise awareness of human needs issues in the community and seek collaborative solutions. For more information, please visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov/BeavertonCares.

Beaverton enjoys one of the most diverse populations among Oregon cities. Most recently, the city was awarded the **2012 Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was one of just four cities of its size recently recognized as a **"Smarter City" energy leader by the Natural Resources Defense Council** and **one of the 100 Best Places to Live in America** by *Money* magazine. In addition, Beaverton has been named **one of the safest cities in the Pacific Northwest** for three consecutive years, as one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine, an **All-America City finalist**, as **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com*, **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine, the **Recycler of the Year** from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists and as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**, the Beaverton Community Vision program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter. For more information, please visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofbeaverton.

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